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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Smart Libraries

The Smart Libraries project, http://www.valleylibrary.ca, has been well received by library users. The following sampling of comments have been received by AVRL:

"Just wanted to pass along that this website is simply fantastic. Congratulations should go to all who put it together and the user friendliness that the site now holds...Great Job!!!"

"Absolutely a great website. We (myself, and my 2 daughters aged 11 and 10) use it quite often and it has been very user friendly. Great design. Thank you so much for making our library time that much easier."

Former staff-member-turned-volunteer Catherine Whitney has completed a promotional tour of AVRL's virtual library project to 18 junior and senior high schools during the months of September and October. Prior to that, Catherine was employed part-time during the summer offering this same promotion to CAP sites throughout AVRL area.

The focus for the Fall will be on enhancing the homework help sections of the kids and teen pages,

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which will include annotated lists of web sites by subject. Included with these subjects will be lists of books that are appropriate for that age group.

Features of the site are being improved on a regular basis.

The success of the Smart Libraries project has helped to increase circulation by 11 percent from April 1 - Aug. 31, 2002 compared to the same period last year.

Five year old Mackayla Fraser of the Windsor Library was a winner in the provincial Summer Reading Programme draw. She received a book bag full of prizes - including this loveable black dog puppet - from Tattletales Books.

Branch News

Plans are under way to carry out a Board recommendation that the Mobile Branch #1 (West) and Mobile Branch #2 (East) operations are combined to work out of the Bridgetown Headquarters. AVRL's Mobile Branch #2 facility has been in decrepit physical condition for some time now, and the quest to either renovate the present building or find new quarters that match AVRL's financial means has not been successful. The goal is to move the staff, book deposit and bus from Coldbrook to Bridgetown by January 1, 2003. Negotiations are taking place for the renovation of AVRL's Headquarters facility to accommodate the change. In addition, mobile branch schedules are being revisited in order to address new travel times, etc.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

After four years as the Children's Librarian for the McConnell Library, Lisa Mulak-MacPhee has resigned and has "gone down the road" to join her husband, who has found employment in Toronto. The Library will miss Lisa's sunny disposition, commitment to team spirit and creative Martha Stewart-like displays. All the best Lisa!

The McConnell Library was again pleased to participate in the 2002 *Celtic Colours International Festival*. The Library hosted the *Fifth Annual Celtic Conversation Series*, which explored the historical, cultural and artistic expression of the Celtic Peoples. The Festival ran from Tuesday, October 15 to Friday, October 18. David Wilkie and Denise Withnell, members of the Alberta band *Cowboy Celtic*, explored the links between traditional cowboy music and Celtic music. Irish singer/songwriter Eleanor McEvoy presented *Celtic Roots in Contemporary Music*. Eleanor achieved star status in her native Ireland in 1992 with her song *Only a Woman's Heart*.

Her songs have been performed by artists as diverse as Emmylou Harris, Sonja Kristina, Marty Black and Phil Coulter. Festival Artist-in-Residence Margaret Bennett grew up on the Scottish Isles of Skye and Lewis, and is one of the world's foremost authorities on Scottish folklore. Margaret visited the Library during the Festival and gave a captivating talk entitled *Scottish Customs from the Cradle to the Grave*, which was so thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance that the one hour session was extended to over two hours! The last session in the series was hosted by local author Ranni Gillis whose talk *Hebridean Connections: From the Western Isles to the Western World* brought history alive.

Irish singer / songwriter Eleanor McEvoy presents a talk called "Celtic Roots in Contemporary Music".

***Toddler Times* was launched at the Sydney, Glace Bay, and North Sydney Libraries with the help of Bubbles the Clown in October. CBRL is pleased to participate in this program for younger children, which has been made possible through the support of the IWK Health Centre Foundation External Grants Program.**

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

At the end of September, CURL hosted author visits from two Newfoundland authors Ed Kavanagh and Gordon Inglis, at the Pugwash and Springhill Libraries. This was the first time an author reading was held at the Pugwash Branch. The event proved so popular and the Library so small that the reading had to be moved to the tourist bureau behind the library to accommodate all who wanted to attend. Ed Kavanagh gave an entertaining reading from his book *The Confessions of Nipper Mooney*, which was the winner of the 2002 Newfoundland & Labrador Book Award. Gordon Inglis read from his mystery, *Death & Breakfast*.

Author Ed Kavanagh reads from his book *The Confessions of Nipper Mooney*.

A book launch was held in the Amherst branch for local author Debi van de Wiel's new book *Faces of Fate: the evacuation of British children during World War II*. The highlight of the reading was two former evacuee children, Gordon Smith and Don Chandler, who recounted their personal stories of being evacuated from Britain to come to Amherst and Port Elgin, New Brunswick, over 60 years ago. Part of the proceeds of Debi's book will go to Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CANU) and Pier 21.

Author Debi van de Wiel read from her new book *Faces of Fate*. With her are two former evacuee children, Gordon Smith and Don Chandler.

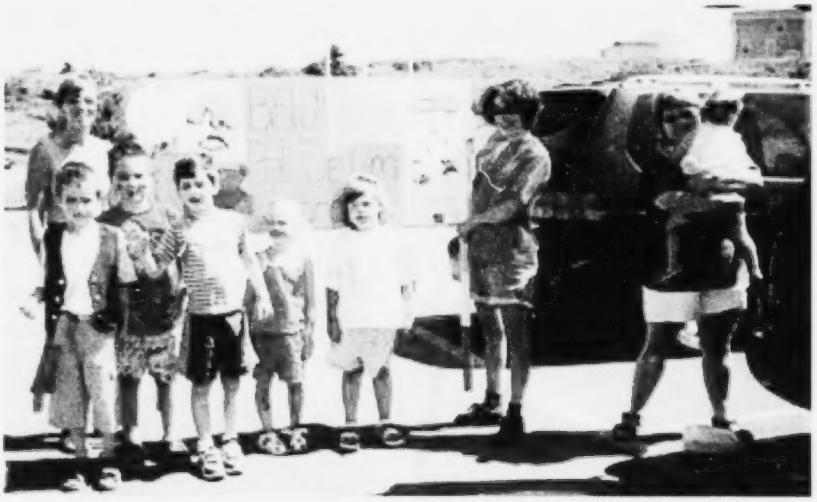
CURL is partnering with the local RDA and other local groups to submit a broadband application. The business plan will focus on two areas of the County not served by high speed Internet access - Parrsboro and Pugwash. The first round of applications were scheduled for the end of October.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

ECRL was in the dog house this summer . . . or rather, they were building dog houses and inviting pets and their owners into the branches for the Summer Reading Programme.

Participation in the Summer Reading Programme was high in the branches and Libr@ry Links sites, with 421 participating and 5,452 books read. Dog houses ranged from the size of milk cartons to wall size. Thanks to library staff, small children and even their pets were accommodated by the crafted creations!

Children in Petit de Grat also benefited from a joint partnership between ECRL and St. Joseph's Parish with funding from HRDC, Jeunesse Canada au Travail (Young Canada Works), St. Joseph's Credit Union, and Le Collège de l'Acadie. The winning combination of grant workers and sponsors provided for bilingual computer assistance, story time and craft programming activities.



Children in the joint partnership between ECRL and St. Joseph's Parish also had the opportunity to enter in the *Festival Acadien de Petit-de-Grat* parade.

The Mulgrave Branch was the site for a September 11 *Lunch 'n Learn* during Adult Learners Week. Taking part in the round-table discussions and preview of the new virtual library were ECRL managers, and coordinators and instructors of the Literacy organizations within ECRL's catchments areas, including Richmond County Literacy Network, Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council, Inverness County Literacy Network, and Guysborough Adult Learning Association.

***Lunch 'n Learn* participants enjoy a break at the Mulgrave Branch round-table discussions.**

Sherbrooke Public Library wins awards! At the 3rd annual *Scarecrow Festival* in Sherbrooke,

the entry created by library staff, *Birds of a Feather Read Together*, was a huge success! Paper mache, garbage bags, and a recycled book, combined with a flock of scarecrows and an old school desk, created a scarecrow par excellence that tied for *People's Choice* award. The entry also garnered 1st place original category, and best entry by a business or community group. The scarecrow was so effective it graced the front cover of the *Guysborough Journal*.

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

CBC Town Hall

This first public forum, part of CBC's new *Learning at the Library* series, was held at the Keshen Goodman Library. The evening's topic was: *Home...and School. How can we ensure our children get the best education?*

Hosts Linda Kelly of CBC Television's Canada Now and Costas Halavrezos of CBC Radio's Maritime Noon were joined by a group of panelists, which included Brian Forbes of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union; Dr. Doug Willms, a researcher, published author and professor from UNB's Education Department; Deputy Minister of Education, Dennis Cochrane; Sandra Himmelman, N.S. Federation of Home and School Associations; and Priya Jindal, co-president, Halifax West Student Council.

CBC host, Linda Kelly, shown here standing in the background, fields questions from the audience.

The evening's panel (L to R): Dennis Cochrane, Brian Forbes, Sandra Himmelman, Dr. Doug Willms, and Priya Jindal, co-president, Halifax West Student Council.

Card Campaign Winner

This summer's *Get a Card and Win Big* campaign was a great success, with a grand total of 803 kids from HRM signing up for library cards. As an added bonus, each new cardholder's name was entered into a draw for a bag of great prizes. The lucky winner of the draw was Dartmouth resident Zack O'Toole. Congratulations Zack!

Card campaign winner, Zack O'Toole, surrounded by prizes and family.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

The stars of Showcase's hit show *The Trailer Park Boys*, John Paul Tremblay, Robb Wells, and Mike Smith, made an October visit to the New Glasgow Library Program Room. While visiting PARL, the actors met with the Stellarton High School grade twelve Canadian Literature students to share their experiences of acting in, and writing a television program. The two hour session was well received by the students, as the somewhat reserved trio were asked many questions about the entertainment industry, script writing and what it is like to be national celebrities.

***The Trailer Park Boys*, John Paul Tremblay, Robb Wells, and Mike Smith, pose with PARL's Community Outreach Assistant, Steven MacLean.**

In early October, the New Glasgow Library hosted a program with the local chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women. In what was the second in their *Speakers of Note* series, Wayne MacKay, President and Vice Chancellor of Mount Allison University, delivered his talk, *Human Rights: Challenges Old and New*. The event was well received with approximately 35 people in attendance and marks the type of community partnerships PARL hopes to encourage, as it reflects what the community would like to see in program topics.

During the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Gala Banquet, held the evening of October 28, with more than 300 business people in attendance, PARL received the Technology Achievement Award for 2002! Organizations are nominated by members of the public and a panel of Chamber representatives, with members of the public selecting the winners. The other nominees in this category included Maritimes and Northeast Pipelines, a local software developer, Lucas Technology and Analytics and others. The award was given in recognition of PARL's Virtual Library, Digitization Projects, other community technology projects, as well as the management of the Community Access Program. In attendance were PARL's technology team, Fred Popowich, Fern MacDonald, Maureen Buchanan, Bernice Cameron, Diana Wallis, and Eric Stackhouse.

Although the Pictou Chamber of Commerce has held its Annual Business Achievement awards for the past 12 years, this is only the fourth year the Technology Achievement award has been presented.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

We knew him when...Alan Wilson's documentary on Sir Sanford Fleming was shown on the History Channel in late September. More significant for SSRL, Alan's advocacy on behalf of libraries was recognized at the LBANS Conference where he received the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia Award of Merit. The award was presented to Alan by Dr. Norman Horrocks, Professor Emeritus, School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University. SSRL board members Alan, Tom Sheppard, and Don Zwicker, and several SSRL staff members attended the combined Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA)/Library Board Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) Conference in Yarmouth.

SSRL's Lynn Robart starred as a presenter at the NSLA/LBANS conference session *Representation in the Workplace: Union? Staff Association? Something else?*

SSRL received Canada Council funding to host three popular local authors in a Fall author reading series called, *Write In My Backyard*. Visits by Shirley Woods, Budge Wilson and Vernon Oickle to SSRL Library Branches took place before, during and after Public Library Week to talk about their writing.

October 21 - 27, was Public Library Week in Nova Scotia. The theme, *Libraries: connecting communities,* was appropriate this year as SSRL celebrated its 30th anniversary, launched its *Adopt-A-Book* campaign, which runs from October 23 - December 14, 2002, and hosted readings by local authors.

Happy Anniversary to SSRL! The Fall of 1972 brought a shiny new Library Branch to Lunenburg (in the former liquor store building on Pelham St.) and bookmobile service to Bridgewater and Mahone Bay. In July 1972 the SSRL Library Board met for the first time and discussed plans for initiation of service. Present were members Mayor (and Board Chair) Sherman Zwicker, Town of Lunenburg; Councillor Norman MacNeil, Town of Bridgewater; and Councillor Bela Molnar, Town of Mahone Bay. The Lunenburg Library opened its doors to the public shortly thereafter.

Thirty years later, SSRL proudly offers public library service to everyone in Lunenburg and Queens Counties, and has expanded two Branches this past summer.

Hear ye! Hear ye! 2002 is the 60th anniversary of the publication of Thomas H. Raddall's novel *His Majesty's Yankees*. November 13, 2003 would have been his 100 birthday. SSRL has offered a challenge to every teen and adult in Queens County to read the book before the anniversary of his birth. Each person who completes the book, will have their name placed on a paper tricorn hat. Once the Library is full of hats, SSRL will spread more throughout Liverpool. The challenge is on!

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

The School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) has been honoured to welcome Catherine A. Quinlan as Visitor-in-Residence for 2002-2003. Ms. Quinlan, who received her MLS from Dalhousie, was in the School from October 10-17, 2002 to serve primarily as a resource and advisor for students in the Master of Library and Information. On October 16, 2002, Ms. Quinlan spoke at the School's Public Lecture series on *Sun Tzu's 'The Art of War' and Strategic Management of Public Institutions*. A reception followed the lecture at which the Associated Alumni of SLIS presented the 2002 Outstanding Alumni Award to Ms. Quinlan. A graduate of Dalhousie (MLS, 1980), Ms. Quinlan holds an MBA from Memorial University. She has worked in publicly funded institutions for the past 20 years, and has been the University Librarian at the University of British Columbia since 1997.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

A Pumpkin Carving Contest was held on Friday, October 18 in the Training Room at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL). The purpose of the competition was to raise awareness of the United Way Campaign, which ran throughout October. There were three teams of enthusiastic carvers, made up of staff from NSPL, and Learning Resources and Technology. Designs and finished products reflected a wide range of imaginative abilities: a cat, a punk, and a traditional scary pumpkin. Staff from the two divisions voted on the best design.

The winners were Bernadette Kennedy and Jeff Mercer and their punk pumpkin (centre). Great fun was had by all!

2001-02 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE2001-02

The 2001-02 Annual Report for the Nova Scotia Provincial Library/Nova Scotia Regional Libraries is now available in PDF at www.library.ns.ca/regionals/annual_02.pdf. Print copies will be available for distribution soon.

HOT TIPS & UPDATES

NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NSLA)/LIBRARY BOARD ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA (LBANS) CONFERENCE 2002

The Rodd Grand Hotel, Yarmouth, was the site of the October 4-6, 2002 joint conference of the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) and the Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA). Trudy Amirault, Director, WCRL and staff, and Gary Archibald, Chair, WCRL Board, hosted the conference this year. The theme, *Together Again - Encore ensemble*, reflected the good mood that dominated the weekend. As well, this was the first time in many years the two organizations have met at the same time.

Teresa Workman, SSRL Public Relations Coordinator, and AVRL Regional Librarian, David Witherly at Friday's reception.

Rosalie Gillis, CBRL's Coordinator of Financial Support, and Michael Colborne, User Services Coordinator, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, enjoy the Friday reception.

Nova Scotia Provincial Librarian Elizabeth Armstrong opened the conference by leading a discussion of issues of concern to all libraries in the province. Ms. Armstrong emphasized that the time to act strongly on behalf of public libraries in Nova Scotia is now, in order to maintain healthy library services.

Organizers of the event were very pleased with the final number of 137 delegates. The conference provided an opportunity for library workers - volunteers, staff, management, and board members - to get together and discuss a wide variety of library topics. Sessions included: Reference and Customer Service, Issues Forum for Staff and Trustees, Patrons with Special Needs, Children's Programs, Genealogy, and much more.

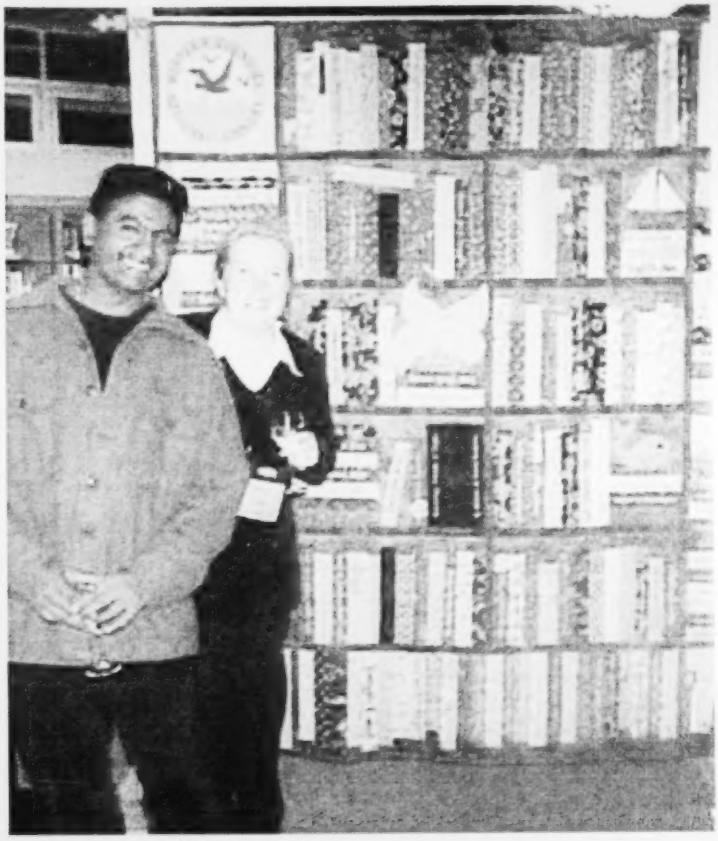
L to R, Rexanne Phillips (HRL); Trudy Amirault, WCRL Regional Library Director; Betty Thomas, President, (LBANS).

L to R, Vicki Holland, Newsletter Editor, NSLA 2002/3 (AVRL) and Lesley Brann, Secretary, NSLA 2002/3 (CBRL).

Next year's conference is being hosted by ECRL at the beautiful Dundee Resort and Golf Club.

For information about NSLA, please visit http://www.nsla.ns.ca.

Joanne Head, Coordinator, Llibrary



Services, (WCRL) and Ray Fernandes, Librarian, (HRL). Joanne suggested the idea for the library quilt and she 'rounded up' all volunteers - including the designer, quilters, and embroiderers.

WESTERN NOVA SCOTIA C@P CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

More than 65 delegates attended the Western Nova Scotia C@P Conference – *Staying Connected* – on October 18 and 19. The conference was held at the Rodd Grand Hotel in Yarmouth.

Highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Gary Wood, formerly the Acting Director of Connect NB Branche, now a Senior Policy Advisor in the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs in New Brunswick. Gary used his unique blend of humor, insight and anecdotes to energize and encourage the C@P workers and volunteers on the successes and future of the Community Access Program.

Other sessions focused on Computer Security, the Nova Scotia Health Network, Access for Persons with Disabilities, New Technology being used in Schools, Service Nova Scotia, Distance Education, and Smart Libraries. Geri Nickerson of Shelburne County Women's Fishnet and Steven Dukeshire of Rural Communities in Partnership (RCIP) presented a session on Resources, Partnerships and Tools.

The conference also allowed time for networking and socializing, including a rousing C@P Trivia Contest with WCRL's Joanne Head as quizmaster.

The Conference organizers under Chair Chris Atwood of the South West Shore Development

Authority declared themselves very pleased with the positive and energetic mood, which permeated the sessions.

Next year's conference will be in the Kings - West Hants area.

BUILDING ANOTHER BRIDGE: EQUAL ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS - TELECONFERENCE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2002

Effective use of technology has become a critical component of information retrieval. Does this leave the blind, the deaf, the elderly and any other group with special challenges on the far side of a new digital divide? The Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) invites you to attend the teleconference *Building Another Bridge: Equal Access to Technology for Special Populations*, another in the *Soaring to Excellence 2003* series. The teleconference takes place Friday, November 15, from 1-3 p.m. in the Classroom at NSPL. During the workshop, presenter Daneen Richardson, Reference Librarian at the Graham Hospital School of Nursing in Canton, Illinois, will offer a practical, humanistic approach to providing access for special populations. Following the broadcast participants at the NSPL site will have the opportunity to try some of the new adaptive technology first hand, as Peter Webster, Head, Information Systems, Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University, will be on hand to demo some of the new software. Admission is free and limited parking is available in front of the building. If you would like to attend, please contact Bernadette Kennedy by phone (424-3791) or at kennedba@gov.ns.ca by November 12, 2002.

Please note: NSPL is a scent reduced building.

THE NOVA SCOTIA DIGITAL COLLECTIONS INITIATIVE

The Nova Scotia Digital Collections Initiative (NSDCI), a group representing a wide variety of institutions and organizations with an interest in digital collections, includes universities, public libraries, the Nova Scotia Community College, archives, museums, and the Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies. The group expressed an interest in developing a web-based mechanism for sharing ideas on digital projects, as well as training and funding opportunities, and which would point to local, national and international resources.

The web site, found at http://www.library.ns.ca/services/NSDCI/index.htm, is primarily a tool for the various agencies involved in heritage activities in Nova Scotia. The secondary focus of the web site is to inform the public of digitization activities happening in Nova Scotia.

An important feature of the web site is an inventory of current, planned and completed digital projects. The Canadian Initiative of Digital Libraries already maintains a national database of digital projects, i.e. the Inventory of Canadian Digital Initiatives. The Committee decided to take advantage of the existing resource and by promoting its use to the Nova Scotia community, improve the national holdings for the benefit of all Canadians.

The group is currently planning a launch of the initiative for early 2003.

NORTH SHORE C@P CONFERENCE: GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION

The first North Shore Regional C@P Conference was held September 28, 2002 at the Truro Trade and Convention Centre. The objective of this conference was to provide an opportunity for C@P volunteers, representatives of partnering organizations and interested individuals from throughout the Region to network, share ideas and learn about new technological opportunities for their communities.

This full day conference began with an early morning registration. After a brief welcome, the participants were quickly involved in their first of five workshops of the day. There were three workshops occurring simultaneously during each of the five time slots from which the participants chose to attend. The workshops covered a wide variety of topics including: Volunteer Board Development, NSCC Online Learning Opportunities, Web Page Development, Online Boater's License Testing, Digital Photography, E-Commerce, Service Nova Scotia, Genealogy Research, Visitor Information Centre Project, Digital Video, Proposal Writing, Banking Online, and Adaptive Technology.

The day closed with a brief speech thanking the volunteers and partner organizations for their commitment to the C@P program throughout the region. The chairperson noted the necessity of this commitment to the success of the program. All enjoyed a buffet dinner and inspirational keynote address delivered by Raymond Provencher of Industry Canada. Mr. Provencher congratulated the region on its past successes and is looking forward to more innovative practices from the area in relation to Community Access.

The conference was well attended and a successful event! The overall evaluations of the conference indicated the participants enjoyed the workshops and left the day with a sense of accomplishment and a renewed interest in C@P.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES OF CANADA

October 2, 2002 - Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps announced the creation of the Library and Archives of Canada, confirming the intention of the Government as expressed in the Speech from the Throne on Monday, September 30. This new agency will see the convergence of the rich collections and recognized expertise of the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada.

"The Government of Canada is committed to making history, culture and Canadian voices accessible to all Canadians and to encouraging research, discovery and the sharing of knowledge. The creation of this modern, dynamic world-class organization addresses an increased public appetite for knowledge about Canada," said Minister Copps. "The new agency announced today will strengthen the visibility, relevance and accessibility of the collections and services of both the National Library and the National Archives," added the Minister. In addition to combining our collections, we will draw upon the expertise of our staff of more than 1,000 people and will take advantage of the latest in technologies to develop greater strength and depth. We will enhance our role as a major, national cultural agency. We will provide leadership and support to Canada's archival and library networks while continuing to represent them on the international level. We will seek to develop more partnerships with other communities and knowledge management professionals to create networks and synergies. As

a result, the Library and Archives of Canada will become better positioned as a leading knowledge and information management organization-unique in the world.

As we build on the proud traditions of the National Library and National Archives to create this new agency, our priorities will be to continue the high level of service to our clients and to work with our partners in government to find solutions to our accommodation requirements, in particular, the pressing housing needs of the National Library of Canada collections at risk.

We will be counting on the advice and support from our communities and from Canadians as we create the Library and Archives of Canada. Please consult our Web sites for ongoing updates on our progress.

Ian Wilson
National Archivist
www.archives.ca

Roch Carrier
National Librarian
www.nlc-bnc.ca

REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

In order to develop and implement the province's labour market strategy and the Skills Nova Scotia Framework, the Department of Education has created the Skills and Learning Branch, led by Senior Executive Director Stuart Gourley. In addition to leading the provincial effort to implement the Skills Nova Scotia Framework, the branch will be responsible for federal-provincial labour market policy and research, adult learning, apprenticeship and the Youth Secretariat.

The remainder of what was the Higher Education and Adult Learning Branch becomes the Higher Education Branch led by Senior Executive Director Susan Clark. This branch now encompasses the N.S. Provincial Library, the N.S. Advisory Board for Colleges and Universities, Rehabilitation Services, Student Assistance, Private Career Colleges, and Teacher Certification.

MI'KMAQ HOLDINGS RESOURCE GUIDE AND VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

N.S. Archives and Records Management recently launched a new online research tool. It is a fully-searchable database with information on 2200 Mi'kmaq and Mi'kmaq-related textual records and published items with links to digitized images for 300 representative documents. A Virtual Exhibit showcases another 130 heritage photographs, artifacts, treaties, documentary art and maps, as well as, genealogical resources for tracing Mi'kmaq ancestry and determining band status. This is an important resource for anyone interested in Mi'kmaq culture, heritage and traditions throughout Atlantic Canada.

MULTICULTURAL/ANTI-RACIST EDUCATION KITS AVAILABLE THROUGH N.S. REGIONAL LIBRARIES

A series of seven Multicultural/Anti-Racism kits are now available through the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries. The kits, produced by the Multicultural Education Council of N.S. (MECNS),

with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, contain a wide variety of media, including books, posters, pamphlets and videos. There is a kit for each of the following topics: Human rights; Religion and special celebrations; Culture, immigration and English as a Second Language; The Mi'kmaq; The Acadians; Nova Scotians of African descent; Multicultural school/ classroom environment; and Inclusive curriculum.

The kits are housed at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, and can be ordered on Interlibrary Loan through any library in the province.

BOOK WEEK TURNS 25!

2002 marks the 25th anniversary of Canadian Children's Book Week, a festival celebrating children's books and the importance of reading that is run by the Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC). *Book Week* is the oldest national, bilingual book festival in the country, one that children's poet Dennis Lee describes as "a vital institution, one (he hopes) will last forever."

The theme of this year's Book Week, November 2-9, is *Inside the Adventure*. More than 80,000 children will participate in official and independently arranged events and readings during the week. In addition, more than 440,000 grade one students across Canada will receive their own copy of the storybook *When Jeremiah Found Mrs. Ming*, by Sharon Jennings with illustrations by Mireille Levert, courtesy of the TD Bank Financial Group.

In addition to book-related activities in schools and libraries across Canada, provinces celebrate Book Week with a visit from an author, illustrator or storyteller from a different part of the country. This year, Nova Scotia will host Governor-General's Award winner and best-selling children's author Deborah Ellis. Ellis is the author of *Looking for X* and *The Breadwinner*. She has two new novels this year, *Parvana's Journey* and *A Company of Fools*.

To kick off Book Week in Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Children's Literature Roundtable hosted the annual Children's Book Week Gala at the Dalhousie Art Gallery on Friday, November 1.

For more information about Book Week contact the CCBC's Nova Scotia representative, Kathleen Martin, at (902) 420-1471 or at ns@bookcentre.ca

BREAKING BREAD FOR AFGHANISTAN

The Writer's Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS), in collaboration with the Canadian Children's Book Centre and Groundwood Books, hosted a potluck fund-raiser in celebration of *Parvana's Journey*, the latest children's novel by Deborah Ellis, on Saturday, November 9. All proceeds from the event went to support Women for Women in Afghanistan, an organization dedicated to the education of Afghan girls and women in refugee camps.

Deborah Ellis, author of *Parvana's Journey*.

Parvana's Journey **is the sequel to** ***The Breadwinner*****, the inspiring story of Parvana, a young girl growing up in Afghanistan, as she struggles to make a life for herself and her family under the harsh rule of the Taliban. With more than 200,000 copies in print,** ***The Breadwinner*** **has won international acclaim.** ***Parvana's Journey*** **takes up where** ***The Breadwinner*** **left off, following Parvana through present-day war-torn Afghanistan as she searches for her family under a barrage of western bombs and missiles, through fields littered with Taliban mines.**

Governor-General Award winning author Deborah Ellis spent time in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and Russia, talking with women and girls. "I had no real skills to offer, or I'd be back there now," Ellis says of the experience. "So I asked them for their stories." She met a woman whose daughter had cut off her hair and put on boys' clothing so that she could work in the streets of Kabul to feed her family. "Something just went click in my head and I knew that I had to do a book about that person . . . A novel gives us the opportunity to see into the hearts and minds of a people in a way that a news story doesn't always do."

Ellis has contributed all royalties from both books to raise money for a new library in Kabul and to raise funds to pay teachers in a country where the annual salary of a teacher is $750.

Deborah Ellis is a writer and mental health residential counsellor in Toronto. Her first novel for young adults, ***Looking for X*****, drew on her experience working in "the projects" in Toronto, and won the 2000 Governor General's Award. She will be releasing her fourth novel,** ***A Company of Fools*****, later this fall. Deborah visited schools throughout Nova Scotia as part of the annual TD Canadian Children's Book Week celebrations which ran from November 2 to 9 throughout Canada.**

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries. They were answered using resources found on the Internet.

Q. Would like to know the value of the book *A list of Micmac names of places, rivers, etc. in Nova Scotia* by Elizabeth Frame. Cambridge: John Wilson, 1892

A. Since this book is very old, a good place to look.is *abebooks.com* http://www.abebooks.com/ where there is a searchable database which lists used, rare, and out-of-print books that are for sale. At the search box at the top of the main page enter the title. This brings up four records for this book. Different prices are given depending on the condition of the particular copy. The site has a glossary at http://dogbert.abebooks.com/docs/HelpCentral/Glossary/ to aid in understanding the book records found here.

Q. Patron wants information about a song called *Sable Island Shore* as it was sung by Smiling somebody Dorey, possibly Ivan or Arthur. Also wants information about the singer.

A. At the Google advanced search page http://www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en enter *sable island shore* in the exact phrase search box. This search locates the *Nova Scotia Country Hall of Fame* page at http://www.hanksnow.com/nscmhf.html on the *Hank Snow Country Music* web site http://www.hanksnow.com/. Scroll down this page to find some biographical information on Smilin' Ivan Dorey, which says that he "had a big hit in the mid 1950's with Ted Germaine's *Sable Island Shore*". The *Hank Snow Country Music* web site says that it has an extensive country music archives and library. This could be contacted for more information on Smilin' Ivan Dorey and *Sable Island Shore*.

LINKed

Canadian Children's Book Week is November 2-9, 2002 and the official web site can be found at

http://www.bookweek.ca/. To help celebrate here are some sites with information on Canadian children's book awards, book reviews, authors & illustrators, and bibliographies on particular topics.

At the *Canadian Children's Book Centre* page at http://www.bookcentre.ca/ there is a list of site contents on the left side of the page. Highlights of the information found here are the *Children's Book Awards* section and the *Talk About Books* section, which leads to a list of *Online Journals* and *Other Electronic Publications* with information on children's books.

Two sites with reviews of Canadian books and other materials for children are *Canadian Children's Literature* at http://www.uoguelph.ca/englit/ccl/ and *CM: Canadian Review of Materials* at http://www.umanitoba.ca/cm/. *The Canadian Children's Literature* web site is for the print journal of the same name. It has a searchable index of all issues at http://libnt1.lib.

uoguelph.ca/CanChildLit/index.htm which was created by Linda Day, a librarian at the University of Guelph Library. *CM: Canadian Review of Materials* is an electronic journal published by the Manitoba Library Association. Reviews can be accessed through the main page by clicking on *authors* or *titles* to browse or by clicking on *search* to do a keyword search.

The National Library of Canada's web site has some great pages on children's literature. At the

Kids' Page at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/kids/index-e.html click on the *Award-Winning Books* button to get a list of these arranged by year at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/6/29/s29-4000-e.html. This page also has links to *Read Up On It* http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/read-up-on-it/, *The Secret Self: An Exploration of Canadian Children's Literature* http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/secret/ and *The Art of Illustration: A Celebration of Contemporary Canadian Children's Book Illustrators* at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/3/10/. *Read Up On It* highlights books on a variety of themes. *The Secret Self: An Exploration of Canadian Children's Literature* was originally an exhibition at the National Library of Canada. It includes essays on children's books and a book list with indexes.

The Art of Illustration: A Celebration of Contemporary Canadian Children's Book Illustrators is also based on an exhibition which was held at the National Library. It has examples of various types of illustrations found in children's books and a bibliography of materials on the study of *Canadian Children's Illustrations and Illustrators*. Another page on the National Library's site is *Canadian Children's Literature: Authors & Illustrators* at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/6/2/s2-201-e.html which lists authors and illustrators alphabetically, with links to sites which have biographical information on them.

Toronto Public Library's web site has *100 Best Canadian Books for Today's Children and Teens* at http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/KidsSpace/grownups/100bestbooks.htm. These were

selected by the children's librarians of the Toronto Public Library. Books are arranged by genre and age/grade level.

Web sites which were featured in previous Linked columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two recent additions to the professional collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please submit requests via email to Dale MacMillan at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca

Braun, Linda W. - *Teens.library: Developing internet services for young adults*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2002. [Call #: PROF .004 .678 Bra]

The central theme of this book is that for libraries to compete with other information and entertainment sources, they must meet and even exceed the high expectations of today's savvy young adults, when it comes to library services. Because teenagers are such Internet enthusiasts, one sure-fire way to do that, according to the author, is through teen-friendly online services and web sites. The author says that there is a gap between what teens find most appealing about the Internet and what libraries are providing to teens via their web sites. She states that library web sites and services must integrate teen-friendly technology, content and attitude, or risk losing an entire generation of potential library customers.

Karp, Rashelle (Editor) - *Powerful public relations: a how-to guide for libraries*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2002. [Call #: PROF 021 .7 Pow]

This book contains essays that focus on helping librarians better understand how public relations can help make their library as user-friendly and user-oriented as possible. The contributing writers, all librarians or library science instructors, provide essays on marketing and development activities, writing news, photo, and press release announcements; designing library publications; creating web-based public relations and exhibits; establishing multimedia programs via touch screen kiosks and CD-ROM's; planning special events; and desktop publishing. The annotated bibliography and webography, the super chapter - specific additional sources, including web sources, and the many sample press releases, brochures and flyers all contribute to this comprehensive, hands-on guide.

Credits go to:
Trudy Amirault, Regional Library Director, WCRL
Bernice Cameron, Regional Coordinator, PARL
Kathleen Martin, Nova Scotia Representative, Canadian Children's Book Centre

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